

Applicant or Patentee: Wayne J. Smith.....  
Serial or Patent No.: (New)..... Agent's Docket No.R-237-A---  
Filed or Issued: Herewith-----  
For: TREE PUSHER-----

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under sections 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled

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described in the specification filed herewith. I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made an invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a non-profit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below: NO SUCH PERSON, CONCERN, OR ORGANIZATION.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the due on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)) I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Wayne J. Smith  
NAME OF INVENTOR

Wayne J. Smith  
Signature of Inventor

8-05-03

Date